

STATINTL

Approved For Release 2002/01/10 : CIA-RDP80-00473A000600090008-3

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DD/A Registry  
File *Records*  
4 MAR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THRU : Legislative Counsel

FROM : John F. Blake  
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Request from House Armed Services Committee  
to Store Records

1. In mid-February it came to my attention that the House Armed Services Committee had asked CIA to store certain records relating to the Committee's Watergate investigation. After discussing this request with my staff officers responsible for records matters, I concluded that there were significant potential problems in the rendering of this type of support and OLC was advised that I was looking into the matter further. The attached memorandum to you detailing my concerns was prepared and forwarded through OLC. Unfortunately, prior to the receipt of my memorandum, OLC as a matter of routine prepared a letter for your signature to Chairman Price accepting the records material for storage in our facilities. A copy of this memorandum is also attached.

2. I realize that we are now in a somewhat awkward position should we choose to make other arrangements for storage of the material, but I believe the concerns raised in my memorandum are sufficient enough to warrant raising this matter with the staff of the Committee. I have been advised that one of the reasons behind the Committee's request is a history of less than satisfactory relationships between the Committee and the National Archives and Records Service. Should this be true and should you share my concern relating to our storage of the material, we could offer to the Committee our good offices in assisting in the making of arrangements with NARS for secure storage of the records in question. I believe our relationships with NARS are such that this could be done with a minimum of difficulty.

3. I would appreciate your guidance on this matter.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake

Attachments: a/s

STATINTL AI/DDA: [REDACTED] ydc (3 March 1977)  
Distribution:

- Original - Addressee w/atts
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DDA 77-0956

23 FEB 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
THRU : Legislative Counsel  
FROM : John F. Blake  
Deputy Director for Administration  
SUBJECT : Request from House Armed Services  
Committee to Store Records

1. Attached is a copy of a letter received from the Honorable Melvin Price, Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, in which he requests that CIA store records relating to the Committee's Watergate investigation. As stated, this material is both classified and unclassified, and I have been advised that it has been delivered to the Agency in five sealed records storage boxes.

2. The Office of Legislative Counsel has advised us that the Committee feels that storage by the Agency would provide the best physical and procedural protection of this material, some of which relates to Agency activities and information. Prior to accepting the material for storage [REDACTED] I feel obliged to receive your specific authorization to do so. I believe there are certain risks involved which should be taken into consideration before such authorization is granted. The first of these risks is that since we are receiving only sealed boxes and are not knowledgeable of the contents, we may well be held responsible for "shortages," lost documents, etc., that may develop at some future date. You will recall that in the case of the Pike Committee such a problem did indeed develop. A second concern of mine relates to the Archivist of the United States. By charter the responsibility for storage and safekeeping of such materials is his, not ours. To an increasing degree, personnel of the National Archives and Records Service are working with us in various records matters and certain specially cleared personnel of that organization do have access to our records center. Should it become known to the Archivist that we were storing this material at least partly to keep it

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out of normal channels, we could be subject to criticism and the resultant circumstances would probably negatively impact on our most cordial relationships with the Archivist.

3. For the reasons stated above, it is my recommendation that we advise Chairman Price that we regret we cannot accept the material for storage and that the five boxes in our possession be returned promptly to the House of Representatives.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake

Attachment: a/s

RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 3: APPROVED ( )

DISAPPROVED ( )

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E. H. Knoche  
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

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Date

STATINTL AI/DDA: [REDACTED] ydc (18 Feb 77)

Distribution:

Original - Addressee (& return to DDA)

- 1 - Acting DCI w/att.
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## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Washington, D.C. 20515

NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS

MELVIN PRICE, CHAIRMAN

February 11, 1977

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Mr. E. K. Knoche  
Acting Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

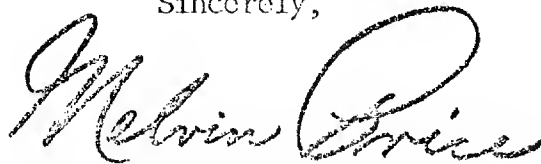
Dear Mr. Knoche:

There is transmitted herewith certain material, both classified and nonclassified, concerning the Committee's Watergate investigation. This material is the property of the House Armed Services Committee, and we request that it be kept in appropriate storage facilities.

It is also requested that the material be given maximum security protection and no one is to be permitted access unless specifically authorized by the House Armed Services Committee, action by the House of Representatives, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Melvin Price  
Chairman

MP:wha

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

77-6357/A

OLC: 77-0532/a

22 FEB 1977

Honorable Melvin Price, Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The five boxes of Committee material, including Agency documents which the Agency provided, forwarded for our custody by your letter of 11 February 1977, have been received and will be stored in strict accordance with your instructions. Maximum security protection will be provided and no one will be permitted access unless authorized in writing by the Committee, action by the House of Representatives, or the Speaker of the House.

The three additional boxes of Committee material, which were picked up at the same time as the above material, have been scheduled for destruction in accordance with your separate instructions.

We are pleased to be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

*E. H. Knoche*  
E. H. Knoche  
Acting Director

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - A/DCI

1 - ER

1 - OLC Subj.

1 - OLC Chrono

OLC:PLC:mg(Typed 17 Feb 77)





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